क्षेत्रों में विशिष्ट परम्परागत मदों के सभी निर्यातों में गिरावट आयी है।

(ख) और (ग) जी नहीं।

Fall in raw jute price

*131. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of raw jute have crashed in the mar ket;

(h) whether it i_s also a fact that *ihe* Jute Corporation of India has failed to purchase the jute; and

(c) what steps have been taken to safeguard the interest of jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) With the harvesting of a bumper crop of raw Jute thi_s season, prices have declined to support level in a almost all up-country markets.

(b) No, Sir. The Jut_e Corporation of India, in association with State Co-operatives. is purchasing raw jute at minimum statutory prices fixed by the Government on a mas sive scale and has made record pur chases of over 15 lakh bales as on 18th November, 1985. Further pur chases are in progress.

fc) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

With a view to protecting the interests of jute growers, the following steps have been taken:—

1. The Jute Corporation of India has been directed to undertake large scale purchases of raw jute at minimum support prices fixed by the Government;

2. Sufficient credit has been placed at the disposal of Jute Corporation of India for undertaking price support operation;

3. A directive has been issued on 6-9-85 by Jute Commissioner to all working jute mills in the prirate sector to build up stocks of raw jute to specified levels so as to step up purchases of raw jute by mills;

4. The Jute Corporation of India has been permitted to export a limited quantity of raw jute.

Impounding' of a consignment *at* Cochin Port meant for an African country

*132. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that a con signment meant for a friendly Afri can country was impounded by the Revenue Intelligence authorities and offloaded at Cochin Port; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

बाल श्रमिक

*133. **श्री अश्विनी कुमार:**
श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र :

क्या **श्रम** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार ने भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 39 में समाविष्ट उपबन्धों के अनुसार बाल श्रमिकों के संरक्षण के लिए अब तक क्या-क्या कदम उठाये हैं।

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० संजैय्या) : बाल श्रमिकों के संरक्षण के लिए सरकार ने निम्नलिखित कदम उठाए हैं :—

(1) बालकों के रोजगार को कारखानों, खानों और कतिपय अन्य